



ALEXANDRIA:
WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 27, 1861.

SENATE.—The Senate, yesterday, after debate, laid upon the table Mr. Douglas' resolutions of inquiry as to the policy of the administration in regard to the Confederate States.

THE STATE CONVENTION.—The Convention yesterday was addressed by Mr. Preston, in favor of an ultimatum; Gov. Wise, who considered the guarantees demanded insufficient; and Mr. Nelson, who opposed Secession.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—In the Senate on Monday, the Tax bill was debated, amended and laid on the table. The bill suspending appropriations to works of internal improvement was discussed. In the House of Delegates the stay law was made the order of the day for Thursday (to-morrow). The Senate bill paying the Adjutant General additional compensation was passed.

The able speech of Geo. W. Summers, recently delivered in the Convention, has been reported, and published in the Richmond Enquirer, occupying nearly the whole space in one issue of that paper. Its great length will prevent its general circulation through the newspapers—which have to keep up with the current news, as well as furnish the *pick* of the speeches of distinguished men—but it should be extensively circulated in pamphlet form. It adds to the fame of its author. Virginia has reason to be proud of such a son as George W. Summers! He is a true patriot and a statesman. Would that all our public men were like him!

We have reason to believe that the newspaper reports that the President of the Manassas Gap Railroad informed the Postmaster General that unless his appointee as mail agent was removed, the U. S. mail should not be carried on the road, &c., is entirely incorrect. It is quite probable, that Mr. Marshall, the President of the Road, and the Directors, made proper representations of the impropriety of a contemplated or reported appointment, and expressed their good wishes in behalf of a young gentleman already employed on the road, and that their representations were favorably received and attended to.

We published yesterday, in full, the report of the closing proceedings of the Baltimore Conference of the M. E. Church, recently held at Staunton. The Conference finally adopted the main features of the report made by Rev. Norval Wilson, conforming to the memorial of the Lay Convention, within the bounds of this Conference, in favor of a separation from the General Conference. The final vote in favor of the separation amounted to 87, and though there were only 3 direct votes against the proposition, there were some 40 who did not vote at all. The way is left open in the resolutions for a reunion with the Northern body hereafter, on the same basis as adopted by the East Conference—that is, the abrogation of the new chapter at the next Annual Conference and the transferring of the subject of slavery to the jurisdiction of the conference where it exists.

Hon. C. G. Meminger, Secretary of the Treasury of the Confederate States of America, has issued a circular in relation to the introduction of goods, wares and merchandise into those States by railroad on inland routes, and to prevent smuggling. On railroad lines there are to be organized revenue establishments, to be known as "Revenue Stations," located near to the frontier of the Confederate States. At each station will be an officer of the customs, known as a "revenue guard," whose duties shall be of a supervisory nature over all merchandise introduced. There will also be established "revenue depots," each having a chief officer, with all the powers of collectors of customs over importations by sea at ports of entry.

The following statement embraces the aggregate appropriation for each department of the government of the Confederate States:—Legislative, \$55,740; Executive, \$53,050; Department of State, \$44,200; Treasury Department, \$70,500; War Department, \$59,000; Navy Department, \$17,300; Post-office Department, \$44,900; Judiciary, \$63,200; Mint and Independent Treasury, \$80,000; Foreign Intercourse, \$100,000; Light-houses, \$150,000; expenses of collecting revenue, \$545,000; Executive mansion, \$5,000; miscellaneous, \$200,000. Total, \$1,495,190.

The following language was from the mouth of Alexander Hamilton, on his resignation of the office of the Secretary of the Treasury in 1795. Holding in his hand a small book, containing a copy of the Federal Constitution: "Now, mark my words! So long as we are a young and virtuous people this instrument will bind us together in mutual interest, mutual welfare and mutual happiness; but when we become old and corrupt, it will bind us no longer."

Gov. Morgan, of New York, earnestly recommends the amendment to the Constitution, recently adopted in Congress, and proposed for the ratification of the States, designed to secure the slaveholding States against any interference whatever, by the General Government, with slavery in the States.

The Baltimore papers furnish evidence, from the reports of leading business firms, of the great stagnation of business in Baltimore, and the distress at present prevailing among the working classes in that city. The secession troubles have stricken down trade and business, almost everywhere, in all sections of the country.

There appears to be very poor prospects in New York, as elsewhere, for anything like activity in business. The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, speaks of a falling off of \$2,357,429 in foreign imports, last week.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

A young man named William Hammett, residing near Pottsville, Pennsylvania, and who for four years past has been so lame from rheumatism as to render locomotion without the aid of crutches impossible, rose on Thursday last, and to the great surprise of all who saw him, walked away from his house without crutches. It was subsequently ascertained that he had suddenly become a mania through the severity of his sufferings; the same cause which had restored him the use of his limbs depriving him of his reason.

Our readers will remember (says the New York World) that the Toronto Leader declared, some weeks since, as "by authority," that the British Government would recognize the new Southern Confederacy as soon as formed. We are authorized by an American gentleman, now in Europe, to say that the statement of the Leader was placed before Lord Palmerston at his instance, and that Lord Palmerston declared, in the most positive terms, that there was "no truth in the report, and no foundation for it."

The great cock-fight, for a stake of \$1,000, between twenty-one cocks from Louisville, Kentucky, and the same number from Detroit, was fought last week in Detroit. The building was crowded during the entire day, and great excitement prevailed. The entertainment was one which is not often witnessed, and the desire to see it was very great, although the zest was materially lessened by the unequalled defeat which the Detroit side experienced.

The Baltimore correspondent of the New York Times writes:—"Last week Mrs. Harper, daughter of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, died here. She was present as a child when Washington resigned his commission at Annapolis. Her picture may be seen as one of the two auburn-haired girls in Col. Trumbull's painting in the Rotunda of the National Capitol."

A contemporary says that the report upon the finances of Texas (which we have not seen) shows that, to meet the demands upon the treasury up to June next, after all other reliable means have been exhausted, there will be needed \$817,000. The yearly taxes amount to \$343,000, so that the tax must be increased threefold to meet the ordinary expenses under the old state of affairs.

The trial of a young wife for poisoning her husband, has just been concluded in Delaware county, New York, and resulted in a verdict of acquittal. Mrs. Herrington is handsome, and was married to James Herrington in July, 1859, when under sixteen years of age, while her husband was thirty-six.

The official census of the United States has just been completed, and it shows a total of thirty-one millions four hundred and twenty-nine thousand, eight hundred and ninety-one (31,429,891). Of these, three millions nine hundred and fifty-one thousand eight hundred and one are slaves. The Pawtucket (R. I.) Gazette says there is in that town a single house which contains seventy children, sixty of whom are too young to labor.

E. K. Collins, esq., of steamship, notwithstanding, has "struck oil" near Hammondsville, New York.

GETTING ANGRY.—At the raising of a secession flag at Chester, Chesterfield county, Virginia, on Saturday, and after the ceremony had been effectively and enthusiastically consummated in the presence of a large crowd, a resolution was offered declaring as the sense of the meeting that Virginia should at once secede and join the Southern Confederacy. Upon the reading of the resolution, Capt. James H. Cox, a delegate to the State Convention, said:

"I rise to oppose the adoption of the resolution just read, and furthermore, to say that if any man says that our representative in the Convention, James H. Cox, Esq., is a secessionist, I say he is a d—d liar."

A speech thus eminently happy, says the Examiner, from which we quote, had the effect of driving all the ladies from the portico into the house, and by dint of great exertion on the part of some of the gentlemen present, Capt. Cox was induced to close his remarks at this point.

Speeches were then made by several gentlemen present, at the conclusion of one of which, by Mr. Barfoot, Capt. Cox offered as a substitute for the pending resolution, another expressing confidence in the representative from Chesterfield in the Convention. The gentleman was proceeding to argue the adoption of his substitute, when an "irreverent jester" in the throng exclaimed "hello," "The gallant Captain promptly responded, 'The man that said hello is a d—d rascal,' and evidenced strongly bellicose inclinations, which had been met in a like spirit, 'who probably have led to an exciting 'scrimmage.' Cooler counsels, however, prevailed and the irritated Captain was finally induced to withdraw his resolution.

VIRGINIA.—The Richmond Whig says that the reaction in Virginia in favor of secession, occasioned by the tone of the Inaugural, has been followed by another reaction in favor of the Union, since the policy of the Administration has been ascertained to be peaceful, and adds:

"In conclusion, let us endeavor to impress upon the minds of all—Secessionists and Conservatives—that no ordinance of secession will be passed by the Convention at the present time and that, if such ordinance were to be passed, it would be voted down, under existing circumstances, by an overwhelming majority. Why, then, such being the fact, should anybody, who desires the peace and happiness of our citizens, continue to agitate and create about a secession ordinance? The thing is altogether impossible, ridiculous and unnecessary, and we admonish the honest and toiling masses of the people in Virginia to pay no attention to the senseless clamors of the secessionists on this subject. The Convention will adopt, in substance, the majority report of the Committee on Federal Relations, as expressive of the views, wishes and demands of Virginia, and call a Conference of the Border Slave States, and then adjourn over until next fall or winter. And that is about all it will do for the present, and all that it ought to do, in our humble judgment."

VIRGINIA CONGRESSMEN.—The Winchester (Va.) Republican makes the following reference to two members of the last Congress who distinguished themselves by their fidelity to the Constitution and the Union:—"The Hon. John T. Harris is announced as a candidate for reelection to Congress from the Rockingham district. He has labored faithfully for the preservation of the Union, and should be re-elected for his district. In this district we recognize our late faithful and able representative, the Hon. A. R. Burleigh, who has no opposition; and as there appears to be a general disposition upon the part of all the shades of the Union party to support him, we suppose there will be no necessity for a Convention."

The Montgomery Advertiser publishes a list of the officers appointed in the Confederate army. Among them are the following from Virginia: Captains, Wm. G. Gill, Ed. J. Harris, John Scott; Lieutenants, Fitzhugh Lee, Robert F. Beckham, George W. Carr.

Mr. Douglas's Speech in the Senate, March 25.

Mr. Douglas was struck by the grounds of opposition to his resolution expressed by the Senator from Wisconsin. He recapitulated his objections, which he regarded as inconsistent. Fort Pickens was the only fort in the Confederate States concerning which any collision was likely to arise, and it would relieve the country to know what the policy of the administration was to be. The Tortugas forts were outside the Confederate States, and were of a national character. He saw no reason for holding on to Fort Pickens, unless the object was to secure Pensacola harbor as a base of operations for a war upon the second States. Notwithstanding his construction of his imagination had been spoken of as uninvited by the other side, he still believed it was the correct one.

His arguments had been objected to. Could they be answered? He had shown that the revenue could not be collected on shipboard, that the Southern ports could not be blockaded, and the President could not use the military power to enforce the law unless authorized to do so by Congress. For this he was accused of belittling the country. Was it belittling the country to show what the laws were? Did they want their President to perjure himself and violate the law?

Mr. Howe said he did not find fault with the Senator for pointing out the laws, but for failing to see the necessity of collecting all the revenue of the country.

Mr. Douglas said he had opposed the reckless passage of the Morrill bill as a measure calculated to destroy the revenue, and he believed that an extra session would be necessary to repeal it.

The Senator said that his (Douglas') arguments reminded him of incidents of the revolution, and by implication compared him to the traitors of that period. He would enter into no defence of his patriotism; he had no fear that the people would look upon him as an enemy. It seemed that the Republican Senators could not make a speech without assailing him and impugning his motives. If he were to die, he would doubtless have the largest funeral cortege ever seen—there would be so many politicians deprived of the material out of which they manufactured their speeches. [Laughter.]

The Senator from Wisconsin objected to his proposition for amending the Constitution, so as to restore tranquility and fraternity as the worst of all his suggestions. Now, unless fraternity was restored, the Union was irretrievably gone, and he could not agree with those who favored a dissolution. The whole question to be settled was, whether they would have union or dissolution, and consequently peace or war.

Mr. Clark said he thought it better to stand on the Constitution as it was, than to attempt any compromise.

Mr. Douglas had no doubt that the Senator's position. He would rather let war come than amend the Constitution.

Mr. Clark said he deprecated war as much as any one. He wished to stand upon the Constitution as it was, as the best means of preventing war.

Mr. Douglas said reducing States to obedience was not the way to prevent war.

Mr. Clark disclaimed any such intention.

Mr. Douglas: "Then you don't intend to enforce the laws?"

Mr. Clark: "I wish to explain. I mean that I believe the time will come when the laws will be enforced all over the country, and without a resort to bayonets. The States of the South will return to their allegiance."

Mr. Douglas said he was dealing with facts as they were. It was a fact that certain States had seceded, and that the laws of the United States were inoperative.

Mr. Clark asked if the mails were not carried in the seceded States.

Mr. Douglas: "Only by their permission." He then went on to say that as the Senator from New Hampshire did not propose to enforce the laws while the people were opposed to them, he did not propose to collect the revenue everywhere.

Mr. Clark said, when the President was authorized, he could collect the revenue on shipboard.

Mr. Douglas said of course, but he had not been authorized. He interpreted this as an admission that there would be no attempt to collect the revenue South, till the law was changed by Congress.

Mr. Clark said he meant to commit nobody but himself. He knew nothing of the intentions of the administration.

Mr. Douglas said though he had been rebuked for impugning the President's speech a short time ago, it now appeared he was right in his interpretation of the President's inaugural. Before the 4th of March, the Republicans talked of collecting the revenue right off; they wanted to find out whether they had a government, etc.

Mr. Clark denied that any such declaration had come from Senators on the Republican side.

Mr. Douglas said he was now satisfied his views were right, and the Republicans did not intend to collect the revenue, and the President would take no steps till Congress made it his duty to do so. This reassured him, for he did not think the Republicans were sensible enough to pursue such a policy. If he had, he would not have opposed them so strongly as he did in the last election.

Mr. Douglas then replied to Mr. Breckinridge, and said he thought the South was now receiving all she had asked for, and should be satisfied. The Republican party had adopted his doctrine of popular sovereignty, and the South now had free access to all the Territories.

Mr. Breckinridge obtained the floor.

COTTON SPINNERS' CONVENTION.—This body met at Atlanta, Ga., on the 19th inst. Four States and eight manufacturing establishments were represented, and the body was composed of a number of men who are prominently known all over the South as experienced manufacturers and economists, and some statesmen. The convention elected Hon. Wm. Gregg, of Graniteville, S. C., as President; Daniel Pratt, of Ala., and Isaac Scott, of Ga., were chosen vice presidents; and W. J. Russell, of Ga., as Secretary. Three committees were appointed—one to form a constitution for the association, one to send a cargo of Southern manufactured goods to Germany, and one to go to Montgomery to solicit from Congress permission to import cotton machinery into the Confederate States for two years free of duty. The association then adjourned to meet again on the second day of May next.

Hon. A. R. Nelson, of Tennessee, in a letter to the Knoxville Whig, giving his views of the present state of our national affairs, says: "My Maynard and myself had it from Mr. Lincoln's own lips, on last Thursday night, that he was for peace, and would use every exertion in his power to maintain it; that he would be better foregone the opinion that the revenue for a season, so as to allow the people of the Seceding States time for reflection, and that, regarding them as children of a common family, he was not disposed to take away their bread by withholding even their mail facilities. He expressed a strong hope that, after a little time is allowed for reflection, they will recede from the position they have taken."

Capt. Samuel Cary, an old citizen of Richmond, died on Saturday night. In connection with Thomas Ritchie, esq., he commenced the publication of the Richmond Compiler, a journal of by-gone days.

Speech of Mr. Baldwin, of Augusta.

Upon the presentation to him of a Floral Wreath, by the Ladies of Richmond.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am no politician; I thank God I have never been a politician; I thank God I believe I never could be a politician. My vote, my inclinations, all lead me to the walks of private life. I acknowledge that I am ambitious—ambitions to excel in whatever I undertake. I acknowledge I am ambitious for the approbation of the just and the good. I trust I shall never be unduly anxious for the approval of the more unduly anxious of the just, the approving smile, the approving word of the just, the good and the brave comes to me with joy unspeakable. Alas! the little I have had to do in public affairs, the little intercourse I have had in the ways of political warfare and conflict, has sadly lessened in my estimation the number of men entitled to be called the good and the true; yet I still find they are jubilant over the approval of the multitude. But what shall I say of the approval of virtuous women? I avow that to gain by fair and honorable means, without the sacrifice of self-respect or personal integrity, such approval constitutes with me one of the highest aims of my loftiest ambition.

I have received here in this most unexpected manner such a testimonial of approbation from the ladies of Richmond as, I can assure you, touches my heart. I have no claim upon your favor except that I am true—true to the principles that I profess, true to the cause that I espouse, true to the country that I love, true to the Constitution under which I have lived and which has shielded and protected me and mine in all the time of my past life. That is all the claim I have upon you. There are those who look upon our Government, who look upon our blessed Union, who look upon our glorious liberty, and think of it only in connection with wrong, think of it only in connection with evils that are incident to all free Governments, think of it only in connection with the injury it might do.

It is my habit to look upon our Government as a Government which in the past has blessed me, which in the present protects me, and which in the future promises me all the considerations that I expect to enjoy in the world as a citizen of any Government. I look upon the stars and stripes, thank God, only to see stripes. I look upon the flag of my country with a thrill of patriotic devotion. I cannot forget—I would not forget if I would—that it is the flag which was borne aloft upon every field of glory, that distinguishes the history of this great country. It is the flag which knows in the past no sectional distinction, no local prejudices, but which has blazed upon the fields of fame and glory in every part of our great and glorious Confederacy. It is the flag that Stark bore at Bennington. It is the flag that waved at Saratoga. It is the flag that waved at Gettysburg. It is the flag that waved at Vicksburg. It represents in my mind my whole country, would to God I could say my undivided country! (Applause.)

Some allusion has been made to the position of the State of Virginia at this time. I claim to be one of her true sons. Her interests, her honor, her rights are near and dear to my heart. I have always believed, and I still believe, that her true interest, her true honor and her highest rights require that she should stand firm by the Union and the Constitution. I am proud of Virginia in the past, but my pride in her is heightened, increased and intensified, when I think of her as one—and not the least in fame and glory—of that magnificent constellation of States that made our glorious Union and our national name familiar to the friends of civil and religious liberty throughout the world. I expect to follow Virginia's fortunes wherever they may lead her. I am not one of those who came into the councils of Virginia with his baggage all packed to leave the State in the event his advice does not prevail. I am one of those identified with her past, identified with her in all her hopes, looking to her future as my future. I am proud of her present position. She stands this day between the breathing and the surging waves of Northern fanaticism and of Southern violence which beat upon her. She stands like a lighthouse amidst the surging of the storm; the winds come, the rain falls, the storm blows and beats upon her, but she falls not, thank God, she moves not, she is founded upon a rock. (Loud cheers.)

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate on Monday, H-use bill to amend the charter of the Bank of Richmond was taken up, and passed.

On motion of Mr. H. W. Thomas, the vote by which Senate bill refunding a sum of money to Frank D. Reid, committee of Frank D. Shepherd, was rejected, and reconsidered, and on his further motion the bill was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Christian, House bill to amend an act passed 19th March, 1860, concerning the mode of catching fish in certain waters, was taken up, and passed.

House bill imposing taxes for the support of Government was taken up and debated.

Mr. Thomas, of Fairfax, moved to amend the 4th section, which imposes forty cents on every hundred dollars' worth of lands, lots and improvements, by striking out forty cents, with a view of increasing the amount.

Opposed by Messrs. Coghill, Brannon, and others.

Mr. Thomas moved to lay the bill on the table. Carried.

The joint resolution of Mr. Coghill, for suspending the appropriation therefore to works of internal improvements, other than that to the Covington and Ohio Railroad was taken up.

Pending the consideration of the subject, the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Delegates, the bill entitled an act to amend the first section of chapter 149 of the Code, relative to the limitation of suits, so as to limit the right to make an entry or recover land west of the Alleghany Mountains, was read a first and second time and passed.

The following bills were also passed: Repealing S. B. Virginia, of Alexandria, for the payment of certain fines for an alleged violation of the inspection laws, and changing the names of the Lunatic Asylum of the State.

Senate bill paying the Adjutant General (W. H. Richardson), "on account of his services in reorganizing the Militia of the State in the years 1858-59," which passed the Senate unanimously, was called up, and, being discussed, was put on its passage and carried in the affirmative. S. B., nos 25.

On motion of Mr. Keen, a bill to stay executions was taken up, and, on his motion, was made the order of the day for Thursday next.

Mr. Crump offered the following resolution: Resolved, That leave be given to bring in a bill requiring the Banks of this Commonwealth to resume payment of specie after the resumption of said payment by the Banks of Maryland.

The resolution was opposed by Mr. Crane and others, and a motion prevailed to postpone it indefinitely.

The large, new and elegant residence of Mr. T. B. Worsham, in the county of Prince George, about three miles below Petersburg, was entirely destroyed by fire on Saturday forenoon last. The building, which was two stories in height and recently built at an expense of \$3,000, burned with such rapidity that it was impossible to save it. The furniture also fell a prey to the devouring element.

VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

In the Convention on Monday, the resolutions of Mr. Willey were taken up, and further discussed by Mr. Turner, of Jackson, and Roanoke.

The Convention then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, and

Mr. Bruce, of Halifax, being entitled to the floor, resumed his speech in favor of the adoption of a "middle ground," viz: for Virginia to put forth an ultimatum to the North, and unless it is granted, that the State will resume its sovereignty.

Mr. B. discussed the question, "Where shall Virginia go?" in the event of the rejection of that ultimatum, and argued to show that the material interests of the State would be greatly promoted by uniting with the Confederate States of the South. He called attention to the fact that the tobacco interests of the State were adversely affected by the imposition of exorbitant duties upon that staple in foreign countries. No statement of those duties can be expected while a high tariff is the policy of the present Union. But in a Union of the Southern States, England and France would be compelled by reciprocity treaties to diminish the duties upon that staple, and thus, by increasing the consumption and demand abroad, stimulate its production, and increase the property of the planters of Virginia.

After Mr. Bruce had concluded his remarks, and resumed his seat, there was a pause, and the Chairman again stated the pending question to be on agreeing to the motion of Mr. Carlile, to amend the report of the Committee by striking out the whole and inserting the substitute proposed by him.

Mr. Moore, of Rockbridge, then arose and replied briefly to a portion of the remarks of Mr. Bruce.

Mr. Scott, of Fauquier, alluded to the points of difference between the propositions of the Peace Conference, and the report of the Committee of Twenty-one amending the same. The Committee had removed ambiguities and made additions, which rendered this report preferable to the original. He called for the yeas and nays.

Mr. Wise demanded to be fully heard before the subject was finally disposed of. He cared not how long it takes him; he claimed the right to be heard in this Convention. He was not in a condition now to speak. His lungs were lacerated, and he was threatened by an influenza. If he should die in the effort to present his views, he will risk his life upon it. He was not ready now. His physician couldn't tell him when it would be prudent for him to use his voice—not this day, nor this week. He only asked the opportunity of obtaining a hearing. The debate hasn't opened, yet. The points that press upon him and his constituents have not been presented.

Mr. W. closed by expressing his readiness to vote for the report of the Committee in preference to the substitute proposed by Mr. Carlile. God protect me, said Mr. W., who cry "Peace, Peace," and come to me in the form of Ballou.

Mr. Harris, of Amelia, said he didn't believe Virginia ought to remain in the Union, no matter what parchment guarantees are given, unless the Cotton States come back. He would not consent to place Virginia in a mediatorial position. He didn't believe that the Union is now existing. The only question for the Convention to decide is, which Confederacy will you unite Virginia with? He would never make another demand upon the North without a sword in his hand, and would never consent that Virginia should occupy the position of a suppliant. Mr. H. declared his purpose never to vote for any other proposition than that signed by the Committee, and that he would vote for the party in the United States since Lincoln's election till now, will far transcend the loss of every negro who has run off from the foundation of our government, and as immediate authors of our pitiable condition, it may be said of South Carolina.

"Your breath first kindled the dead coal of wars, And brought in matter that should feed this fire, And now his far too huge, to be blown out With that same weak wind which exhaled it."

I was struck lately with the force and appositeness of a poetical article in the Gazette on "Gib," by Old Fogey of Fauquier. It is the curse of the age, and has been the most potent cause of our present distresses. Foreigners say we are a nation of talkers. The evil would be had enough and dear enough if it were gratuitous, but paying, as we are, in these stringent times, for the article in the Virginia Legislature and Convention \$3,000 per diem, it would not seem to be a discount. It may be retorted that scribbling is another evil under the sun, and so it is; but in the first place, it is not so expensive, and in the second, so far as scribblers are concerned, the public would be saved the infliction of their querulousness were it not that those to whom their interests are committed are frequently so false to the high trust.

AMICUS PATRIÆ.
Loudoun county, March 23, 1861.

When the result of the election held in February was made known, all were surprised to find the majority in favor of the Union candidates so large, especially in the Eastern portion of the State. But it should be borne in mind that nearly all of the Union candidates published cards or made speeches, in which they favored prompt and decided action, and took strong grounds of resistance to Black Republican rule; promising the people to make demands of the North, equivalent to Crittenden's compromise, and many went even further. It should be further borne in mind, that, as a class, the Disunion candidates were impetuous and rash, and the people knew not to what excesses they would go, whether they might not seize the Federal property in the State immediately, and recklessly provoke a collision with the Federal Government. In other words, they were considered unsafe politicians, no matter what their views were.

However that may be, it is evident to all who observe, that in the upper end of Fauquier the sentiment of the people is gradually drifting towards a separation from the Federal Union.

The unsatisfactory result of the labors of the Peace Conference—the President's Inaugural—the Cabinet appointments, and lastly, the appointments to fill the Federal offices in the State of Virginia, so far as known; going to show that the Federal patronage will be used to build up a Black Republican party in the State, which though it can never be large enough to affect any election, may still become large enough, by means of the propagation of incendiary documents and speeches, to affect very seriously our domestic security and prosperity.

Each of the above, in turn, but especially the last, when with our people, it is coupled with the name of the notorious John C. Calhoun, as counselling and directing the appointments in the State, has excited so deep a feeling of hostility to the Administration, that all are seeking about for some mode of relief. And since the adoption of the permanent Constitution of the Confederate States, and the policy of that Government have become known, all eyes are turning anxiously in that direction. Gradually their affections have been weaned from the Federal Government, as they perceive more plainly each day, that their State is not to be governed for the Peace, Prosperity, and Happiness of its own citizens, but for the advancement of the Republican party.

And now, the Southern Confederacy extends to them the olive branch, accompanied with

COMMUNICATIONS.

"For a lodge in some vast wilderness, Some boundless contiguity of shade, Free rumor of oppression and deceit Of unsuccess or success was vain. Might never reach me more: my ear is paid, My soul is sick with every day's report Of wrong and outrage with which earth is filled."

It was hoped when the great Border States came to the rescue at Washington, that the tide of fanaticism, rolling its waves from the North and from the South, would be stayed in their progress, and more especially did it seem that "wild war's deadly blast was blown, and gentle peace returning." When the President of the Peace Congress in such honeyed accents, so complimentary and conciliatory, made his opening address to that body, on whose shoulders seemed to hang the fate of Empires, this address, every word of which breathed of peace, did not prepare me for the high station taken by three of the Virginia Commissioners virtually rejecting all compromise; but the public surprise at this belligerent line of conduct contrasted with the pacific spirit of the address was not greater, than it was after the touching valedictory, the final voting for, signing and recommending the proposed amendments to Congress, that these same Plenipotentiaries should adjourn to the Richmond Convention, and instantly denounce their own acts. This is the most surprising as it is done in contempt and defiance of the known wishes of Virginia as expressed in the recent election.

"But the age of virtuous politics is past, And we are deep in that cold pretence, Patriots are grown too shrewd to be sincere, And we too wise to trust them."

But what should excite our special wonder, when men whose heads are silencing over with age, rise in a grand deliberative assembly, and thank God that they have not blood, and declare the anomalous assertion that the rasher the act they are about to commit the more they calculate. For such

"The brain may devise laws for the blood, But a hot temper leaps over a cold decree."

Instead of giving dispassionate counsel to their more youthful associates they rather think with Gratiano—

"Why should a man whose blood is warm within, Sit like a grudge out in the alabaster?"

An unaccountable enchantment has possessed our people the past few weeks. I had hoped a quietus had been given to Secession by the recent demonstration of popular sentiment. Must we be run to the cost of a Convention every few weeks to ascertain the latest political phase of our State? Are we such weakthroats to be veered about by every shifting wind of doctrine? If Lincoln's inaugural, so variously interpreted, caused the ferment, surely the evacuation of Fort Sumter is calculated to confirm the more peaceful construction put on it by some. One is at a loss to conjecture the cause of this sudden gust of Secession.

We are failing more in love with it just as many in the Southern Confederacy are falling out with each other, selling out and quitting in disgust, or are some so fond of discussion and division as not only to advocate a division of the Union, but a division of sections and States? Must we follow the example of South Carolina, the least aggrieved portion of the Union, enact the part of Bombastes Furioso, and provoke a war whether or no with the Federal Government? Is not every kind of business sufficiently prostrated to gratify the worst wishes of the bitterest enemy of our country?

I verily believe, on a nice calculation, that the depreciation of real estate, just as many in the Southern Confederacy are falling out with each other, selling out and quitting in disgust, or are some so fond of discussion and division as not only to advocate a division of the Union, but a division of sections and States? Must we follow the example of South Carolina, the least aggrieved portion of the Union, enact the part of Bombastes Furioso, and provoke a war whether or no with the Federal Government? Is not every kind of business sufficiently prostrated to gratify the worst wishes of the bitterest enemy of our country?</